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January 5, 2017

1997- a young Indian married couple comes to the United States. A year later, they have their first child. Two years after that, they have their second child- me. Growing up with immigrant parents was not an easy ride. My parents have always been proud to call themselves Indian, and in turn, have raised me to feel the same way. However, I live in a constant dilemma- am I Indian because of my heritage or am I American because of my birth? Now for some people, like my brother, this answer came easy- he embraces the Indian part of him and is very proud to be called an Indian. However, for others like me, this decision has been very difficult. The problem is not that I dislike Indian culture or anything of the sort, I just feel the need to “fit in” to the society around me. For a very long time, I thought I was alone in this- I thought that everyone knew their identity and embraced whichever side they chose. However, as seen in the characters of the stories written by Asian authors, many immigrant children ask themselves the same question I do- do I carry on my parents’ traditions or do I conform to the new culture. In *Two Ways to Belong*, by Bharati Mukherjee, Mukherjee writes about her family. The interesting thing about her story is that it is very similar to mine- Mukherjee’s older sister, Mira, immediately embraced the Indian culture that their parents passed down, while Mukherjee herself felt the need to fit into society. It really surprised me how Mukherjee’s story, a story from the 1900’s, aligned so similarly to mine. Back in Mukherjee’s time, Asian immigration to the

United States was not common practice, but now, in the early 2000's, Asian immigration is very common. However, even with this sudden influx of Asian culture, the immigrant children nowadays still face the same dilemma as immigrant children in the past. It goes to show how defined "American culture" is- even with the addition of Asian culture, immigrant children still face the same problems.

Another daily struggle of growing up in an immigrant household is the constant pressure put on us to be the best at everything. In *Two Kinds* by Amy Tan, the narrator talks about a very similar upbringing- one in which she was forced to be a "prodigy" by her immigrant Asian mother. I can relate to this a lot, and I think that this mindset comes from the fact that our parents worked very hard to come here, and if they see us "wasting" the great opportunities that we have, they feel like all that hard work they put into coming to the United States had almost no output. The ideologies that immigrant parents have towards their children have not changed from the late 1900 to modern day America. Overall, although America is a very different country than it once was, the immigrant ideologies have not changed throughout the times.